

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5, and 7-8 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 3 and 7-8 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 3 and 7-8 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

The claimed invention is directed to a system for ordering items, an application service provider (ASP) system for issuing and receiving orders, a computer program product for issuing and receiving orders, and a system for processing orders.

In accordance with the present invention, a server can specify only the customer management unit ID and a unique MD ID based upon the item number when receiving the ordering request for ordering a plurality of items, and further specify the unique dealer from among the plural dealers contracting with the user belonging to the customer management unit to offer the item, based upon the item number. The user can order plural kinds of items extending over plural dealers at once without being conscious of the dealer corresponding to the item.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5, and 7-8, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

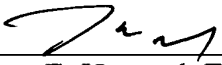
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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